

Message Text

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12

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /122 W

----- 103941

R 191731Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 964

INFO AMCONGEN HONGKONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 9420

H PASS CODEL

PASS STR FOR ACTION

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MTN ETRD

SUBJ: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATON--HONG KONG

REF: STATE 276773

1. CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH HONG KONG MTN DEL (PEARSON)
TUES, DEC 16, ON THEIR TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) REQUEST
LIST. USDEL DETAILED THREE CATEGORIES OF US REACTION,
COMMENTED ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS DRAWING FROM REFTTEL, AND
INDICATED GSP ITEMS IN A SIMILAR MANNER OF PREVIOUS REPORTING
CABLES ON CONSULTATIONS.

2. HONG KONG DEL RESPONDED WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS TO US
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POSITION WITH RESPECT TO LDC CONTRIBUTIONS TO A TP PACKAGE
HE INDICATED THAT OFFICIALS IN HK HAD NOT REVIEWED THIS

ISSUE THOROUGHLY SINCE, IN HIS VIEW, HK HAD NO TRADE BARRIERS FROM WHICH TO GIVE CONCESSIONS NOTING THAT LEGISLATION HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN HK TO ELIMINATE BRITISH PREFERENCES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN US GSP. PEARSON THEREFORE FELT THAT UK WOULD CONTINUE TO ADOPT THE LDC POSITION ON RECIPROCITY.

3. MTN DEL TOOK NOTE OF THESE VIEWS AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT WASHINGTON PREPARATIONS WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING FOR THE US TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS HK MIGHT MAKE TO A TP PACKAGE, IF ANY. MTN DEL STRESSED THAT SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH WERE PROBABLY NEGOTIABLE IN TP GROUP, BOTH REQUESTED AND NOT REQUESTED, REPRESENTED SIGNIFICANT TRADE VALUE TO HK AND THAT A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH WOULD BE TO NOT OPPOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS TO A TP PACKAGE.

4. PEARSON UNDERSTOOD THIS POSITION BUT IMPLIED THAT THE BURDEN WAS ON THE US TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS FOR POSSIBLE REDUCTION. HE ADDED ALSO THAT HK WOULD CONSIDER ADDING SEVERAL ITEMS TO ITS REQUEST LIST INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, TSUS 750.38, 772.30, 772.35, AND 791.75. PEARSON ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF GINGER PRESERVED IN SYRUP AND CANDIES GINGER ROOT TO HK. HE PROVIDED TRADE DATA (TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM) THAT DEMONSTRATES THAT HK IS SIGNIFICANT EXPORTER OF THESE ITEMS TO MARKETS OTHER THAN THE US. WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MTNGE09420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-0087
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaausc.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 276773
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATION--HONG KONG
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006